



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/044,684	11/09/2001	Robin P. Yergenson	10012411-1	9702

7590 04/22/2005
HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY
Intellectual Property Administration
P.O. Box 272400
Fort Collins, CO 80527-2400

EXAMINER

FOX, CHARLES A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3652

DATE MAILED: 04/22/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/044,684	Applicant(s) YERGENSON, ROBIN P.	
	Examiner Charles A. Fox	Art Unit 3652	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 January 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1,3-8,10-13, and 15-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Woodruff et al. In regards to claims 1 and 13 Woodruff et al. disclose an object retention system on a rotatable carousel comprising:

a latching hub (34) with a vertical axis of rotation (36) and a perimeter (not numbered);

at least one object (60) within the carousel, said object radially and outwardly disposed in relation to said perimeter and having a latch reciprocal (172) for mating with said hub;

at least one retainer (140) adjacent each object configured to maintain contact between the latch reciprocal and the latching hub.

In regards to claims 3 and 15 Woodruff et al. also disclose the latch reciprocal as being a prominence on the object and the latching hub has a depression (170) for receiving said prominence.

Regarding claims 4,5,16 and 17 Woodruff further discloses the retainer which form part of the latching hub is springable to permit insertion and removal of said object.

In regards to claims 6,7,18 and 19 Woodruff et al. further disclose the latching hub is substantially coextensive with the objects and that the latch reciprocal is mounted centrally between the ends of the object.

Regarding claim 8 Woodruff et al. disclose a method of securing objects in a rotatable carousel comprising the steps:

- mounting a latching hub about the axis of rotation of the carousel;

- providing a retainer within said carousel;

- inserting an object having a latch reciprocal into the carousel;

- mating the latch reciprocal with the hub such that the object is held outward of the perimeter of the hub;

- wherein the retainer maintains contact between the latch reciprocal and the hub.

Regarding claim 10 Woodruff et al. also disclose the step of providing each latch reciprocal with a prominence and forming a depression in the hub to receive said prominence.

In regards to claims 11 and 12 Woodruff et al. also disclose the step of inserting the object into the hub further comprises the steps:

- the object displaces a retainer which forms part of the hub, permitting the latch reciprocal to partially bypass the hub;

- the retainer returning to lock the latch reciprocal against the hub.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

Art Unit: 3652

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 2,9 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Woodruff et al. as applied to claims 1,8 and 13 above, and further in view of Dodd et al. Woodruff et al. teaches the limitations of claim 1,8 and 13 as above, they do not teach a latch reciprocal prominence as being on the hub. Dodd et al. US 3,809,263 teach a rotatable carousel for retaining objects wherein said carousel and said objects both have latch reciprocals that consists of a prominence and a recess. As such they teach that the latch reciprocal may be either a prominence, a recess or both if desired. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of invention to provide the device taught by Woodruff et al. with a prominence on the hub as taught by Dodd et al. in as an obvious design choice over the recess in the hub, said choice having the same expected results as the Woodruff et al. teaching.

Response to Amendment

The amendments to the claims filed on January 18, 2005 have been entered into the record.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed January 18, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. In regards to the applicants assertion that the Woodruff reference does not teach the latch reciprocals as mating with the hub, the examiner disagrees.

Art Unit: 3652

While the objects (60) are attached to the hub (340 via a plate this plate is considered a part of the hub. The applicant does not claim the hub is a unitary structure, but rather the various parts of the instant invention are on the hub. In column 4 lines 12-15 Woodruff clearly states that the objects (60) are selectively mounted on the hubs. Thus the attachment means on the hubs are taken to be a part of the hub. As such the reference discloses all the limitations of claims 1,3-8,10-13 and 15-19. regarding the argument that Woodruff does not disclose a means for latching the object to the hub, element (140) is noted as doing just that. As such the claims are properly rejected as before.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Charles A. Fox whose telephone number is 571-272-6923. The examiner can normally be reached between 7:00-4:00 Monday-Thursday.

Art Unit: 3652


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eileen D. Lillis can be reached at 571-272-6607. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

CAF

CAF

4-6-05


EILEEN D. LILLIS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600